against Sr. FAO posts in CSIR laboratories at Hyderabad; if so, the names and scales of pay for the posts for which such arrangement was made; and

(d) whether any request of Sr. FAO for transfer to Hyderabad has been recommended by Member of Parliament; if so, the reasons for not acceding to the request?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Only one post of Senior Finance and Accounts Officer (Sr. F&AO) is vacant in the CSIR National Labs/Instts.

(b) The post of Sr. F&AO in the scale of pay of Rs. 10,000-325-15,200 has recently fallen vacant at CSIR Complex Chennai, a constituent unit of CSIR.

(c) In view of functional and administrative requirements 20 posts of Sr. F&AO were temporarily downgraded to the level of Finance and Accounts Officer (F&AO) in the scale of Rs. 8,000-275-13,500 as eligible officer for promotion to the post of Sr. F&AO were not available. Now that officers in the feeder grade (F&AO) are becoming eligible for promotion, the downgraded posts of Sr. F&AO are getting restored to its original cadre as per the sanctioned strength in the CSIR National Labs/Instts., including the Hyderabad based Labs/Instts.

(d) Yes Sir. The request could not be acceded to for want of vacancy in the grade of Sr. F&AO/F&AO at any of the Hyderabad based CSIR National Labs/Instts.

Irregularities at NISCOM

766. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5168, given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 2000 and state whether any case has been registered/ planned to be registered under the IPC against the officials of NISCOM against whom charges of financial misappropriation were proved by CVC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Any further action in the matter at the level of Disciplinary Authority shall be possible only after receipt of the report of the Inquiry Officer consequent upon conclusion of the inquiry process. On receipt of the report of the Inquiry Officer, the respective Disciplinary Authorities shall take a decision in each of the cases in consultation with CVC.

Disappearance of Iodine in the Humid Temperature

[†]67. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific study has been conducted to ascertain the extent of humid temperature at which Iodine disappears; and

(b) if so, the details of the title of the study, the names of concerned research scientists and laboratory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Some scientific studies have been conducted regarding stability of Iodine which indicate higher loss of Iodine with increase in humidity and temperature. These studies are: (i) *Kinetics of Iodine loss from Potassium Iodate in iodized salt* and *Stability of iodized salt with respect to iodine content* by Dr SA Chauhan et al., from Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar; (ii) *Studies on the stability of iodine compounds in iodized salt* by FC Kelly of Chilean Iodine Educational Bureau, London; and (iii) *Stability of iodine in iodized salt used for correction of Iodine Deficiency Disorders* by Diosady et al. from University of Toronto, Canada.

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.